

EXECUTIVE
Brown County

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TOM HINZ

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December 22, 2008

Dear Citizens of Brown County:

On December 17, 2008, our Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a Sustainability Resolution to formally commit Brown County to adopt sustainable government policies and procedures as well as partner with the State of Wisconsin as a 25x25 Energy Independent Community. This is a proud day for Brown County as we move forward with setting goals, guidelines, policies and strategic actions that will result in a more sustainable community for all of us.

Our County government's existing energy conservation efforts are vast and widely diverse. From the replacement of an old boiler system with high-efficiency Thermiflex gas-fired hot water heaters at the Central Library to the conversion of landfill gas to energy, Brown County has been concentrating on ways to conserve energy and become more environmentally conscience for over 10 years.

With regard to green building initiatives, we currently have two exciting LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) construction projects in process. These include the construction of the Brown County Community Treatment Center (BCCTC) to replace the aging Mental Health Center, and the construction of the new 9-1-1 Communication Center which is being built over a section of our existing Jail building.

We have also incorporated green cleaning techniques for all County buildings as outlined in the Johnson Diversey ResponsibleSolutions™ Program; changed the facilities housekeeping schedule from nights to days to save energy through the lighting/heating/cooling of buildings after hours; and conducted several energy audits through Focus on Energy which have resulted in the implementation of hundreds of energy-saving measures throughout Brown County.

In regard to sustainable planning, each municipality in Brown County, with leadership and mentoring from our Planning and Land Services Department, has adopted a Comprehensive Plan that is the guiding document for future growth in the community. Each of these Comprehensive Plans contains an important segment on sustainability that encourages widespread community awareness raising, integrated community involvement, and common sustainability language based on the "natural step" framework.

In addition to Comprehensive Plans for municipalities, the Brown County Comprehensive Plan promotes sustainability practices to improve energy efficiencies, provide alternative transportation options, protect the environment, promote economic development and preserve the quality of life in Brown County. Our commitment to this plan has lead to the following initiatives in our community:

- Brown County was the first in the state to implement roundabouts into our communities back in 1999. These innovative systems reduce vehicle “stop-and-go”, reduce traffic light energy usage and are pedestrian-friendly which encourages more walking and bike-riding.
- Brown County is only one of two municipalities in Wisconsin included on Google Transit, a bus trip planning program offered free on the Internet. Citizens can enter their origin and destination information, and the program outlines what bus route is needed, pick-up locations and real-time travel time estimates and schedules.
- Brown County Planning employees have developed energy-saving initiatives with Green Bay Metro Transit Services which offers 1.7 million rides per year. Recent efforts including the completion of a “How to Ride the Bus” video and equipping buses with bike racks.
- Brown County has been chosen to participate in a \$400,000 Brownfield grant for assessment and redevelopment of polluted or potentially-polluted properties in Brown County.

As a County-wide green initiative, we have recently partnered with Outagamie and Winnebago Counties to develop a single-stream recycling process for 2009. A new recycling processing facility will be built in Outagamie County which will process paper and containers collected together for the Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Tri-County Recycling Partnership. This new process will allow one vehicle instead of two to collect recycled paper and containers from curbside, which will save fuel and labor costs.

In addition to above, two exceptional energy projects Brown County has undertaken include the Landfill Gas-to-Energy project that will convert methane gas from the County’s East Landfill to electricity to be sold back to Wisconsin Public Service utility company; as well as the Brown County Waste Transformation Project that converts organic waste streams from meatpackers, sewerage districts and dairies to a palletized pathogenic-free fertilizer to be used all over the United States.

With leadership from our Energy Independence Coordinator, our Energy Oversight Committee has been working diligently to map out the next steps in taking Brown County to a whole new level of energy independence in the coming months and years. We are dedicated to energy conservation and gaining efficiencies, and we hope the citizens of Brown County are as excited as we are to take this journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Hinz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Hinz
Brown County Executive

December 8, 2008

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ladies and Gentlemen:

BROWN COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Sustainability means satisfying our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Sustainable County Government means:

1. Leading by demonstrating sustainable stewardship that will yield cost savings to taxpayers by reducing County operating costs;
2. Providing healthy work environments for County staff, visitors and clients while protecting, conserving and enhancing the County's resources and establishing community standards of sustainable living practices;
3. Operating County facilities to minimize environmental impacts by incorporating the use of sustainability and energy efficient materials, renewable resources, alternative energy and fuels, water conservation and waste reduction;
4. Designing, constructing new and renovating existing County facilities utilizing Green Building design guidelines including LEED and Energy Star design criteria;
5. Developing and implementing sustainable fleet management policies and procedures that will result in improved vehicle operational and maintenance practices and fuel efficiencies; and

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WHEREAS, the County should be a leader in setting policies, guidelines, goals and strategic actions that will result in a more sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has established the Energy Oversight Committee to draft a long range energy strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin 2025 Energy Independence goals are to:

1. Generate 25 percent of our electricity and 25 percent of our transportation fuel from renewable fuels by 2025;
2. Capture 10 percent of the market share for the production of renewable energy sources by 2030, bringing \$13.5 billion annually to Wisconsin's economy by 2030;
3. Become a national leader in groundbreaking research that will make alternative energies more affordable and available to all – and to turn those discoveries into new, high paying Wisconsin jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE BUT IT RESOLVED, that the Brown County Board of Supervisors are committed to Sustainable County Government procedures and declares itself a partner with the State of Wisconsin in the pursuit of the “25 x 25” goals for energy independence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to Governor Doyle, the Brown County state delegation and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Approved By:

Tom King
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date Signed: 12/22/08

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ROLL CALL # _____

Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette

Seconded by Supervisor Lund

SUPERVISOR NAMES	DIST. #	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN
WARPINSKI	1	X		
DE WANE	2	X		
NICHOLSON	3	X		
THEISEN	4	X		
KRUEGER	5	X		
HAEFS	6	X		
ERICKSON	7	X		
BRUNETTE	8	X		
ZIMA	9	X		
EVANS	10	X		
VANDER LEEST	11	X		
JOHNSON	12	X		
DANTINNE, JR	13	X		

SUPERVISOR NAMES	DIST. #	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN
LA VIOLETTE	14	X		
ANDREWS	15			EXCUSED
KASTER	16	X		
KNIER	17	X		
WILLIAMS	18	X		
FLECK	19	X		
CLANCY	20	X		
WETZEL	21	X		
LANGAN	22	X		
SCRAY	23	X		
HOEFT	24			EXCUSED
LUND	25	X		
FEWELL	26	X		

Total Votes Cast 24

Motion: Adopted X Defeated _____ Tabled _____